

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1 - 51 are pending in this application, with 1, 9 and 18 being the independent claims. No new matter has been entered by any amendments.

Based on the above amendment and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Abstract***

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract "because it is more than 150 words." Accordingly, a shortened replacement abstract is provided herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)***

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azadet et al. (EP 1006697) in view of Winter et al. (Electrical Signal Processing Techniques in Long-Haul, Fiber-Optic Systems, AT&T Bell Laboratories).

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 43 - 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azadet et al. (EP 1006697) in view of Winter et al. (Electrical Signal Processing Techniques in Long-Haul, Fiber-Optic Systems, AT&T Bell Laboratories) further in view of John A.C. Bingham

(Multicarrier Modulation for Data Transmission: An Idea Whose Time Has Come, IEEE Communication Magazine, May 1990).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1 - 51.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended to recite additional features, including multi-path features. These features are disclosed in the specification at, for example, paragraphs 0108 - 0110 and in figure 10A . The references applied by the Examiner do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination with one another, the combination of features recited in amended claims 1, 9 and 18, as amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9 and 18 is requested.

Claims 2 - 8, 25 - 30 and 43 - 45 depend from claim 1. Claims 10 - 17, 31 - 36 and 46 - 48 depend from claim 9. Claims 19 - 24, 37 - 42 and 49 - 51 depend from claim 18. Claims 2 - 8, 10 - 17 and 19 - 51 are thus patentable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claims 1, 9 and 18 and further in view of the features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 - 8, 10 - 17 and 19 - 51 is requested.

### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete

reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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